

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 BRASIL 06907 01 OF 04 102027Z

72

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 EB-11 SWF-02 AGR-20 /175 W

----- 092293

R 102000Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5510

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 4 BRASILIA 6907

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PINT, BR

SUBJECT: CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS: REPORTS OF IMPROVEMENT SUPPORTED
BY SALES, DISPUTED BY ARNS

REF: A. BRASILIA A-116

B. BRASILIA 5095

C. BRASILIA 2994

SUMMARY: IN RECENT WEEKS PRESS ACCOUNTS QUOTED PROMINENT
CHURCH LEADERS AS BEING PLEASED WITH DEVELOPMENTS IN
CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS. NEWS STORIES AND COMMENTATORS
PRAISED THESE AND PREVIOUS SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT UNDER THE
GEISEL ADMINISTRATION, IN SOME CASES NOTING THE CONTRAST
WITH THE SITUATION IN RECENT YEARS. CARDINAL SALES IN
RIO CONFIRMED THE ACCOUNTS INVOLVING HIM, BUT IN SAO PAULO
CARDINAL ARNS TOLD CONGEN OFFICERS HE WAS NEITHER OPTIMISTIC
NOR PESSIMISTIC BUT EXPECTANT, STILL BELIEVING THAT GOLBERRY
IS HONESTLY TRYING TO CORRECT ABUSES. IN FACT SOME IMPROVE-
MENT HAS UNDENIABLY OCCURRED, BUT CHURCH-STATE TENSIONS
WILL NOT LOWER SIGNIFICANTLY UNTIL CHURCH LEADERS BECOME
CONVINCED THAT GOVERNMENT HAS PUT AN END TO VIOLATIONS OF
HUMAN RIGHTS, LEADING CHURCH TO RELAX ITS CRITICAL
POSTURE. END SUMMARY.

1. THE LATEST WAVE OF COMMENT ASSERTING IMPROVED

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BRASIL 06907 01 OF 04 102027Z

RELATIONS BETWEEN CHURCH AND STATE BEGAN WITH THE PRESS
COVERAGE OF THE AUGUST 5 MEETING IN RIO BETWEEN PRESIDENT

GEISEL AND CARDINAL EUGENIO SALES. THE LATTER WAS QUOTED AFTER THE MEETING AS DECLARING "THERE ARE NO MORE POINTS OF FRICTION BETWEEN THE CHURCH AND GOVERNMENT" AND "THERE ARE NOT NOW ANY PRISONERS IN THE AREA OF THE CHURCH." THE INDEPENDENT JORNAL DO BRASIL, WHICH GAVE THE STORY FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE, SUBSEQUENTLY COVERED A WHOLE PAGE WITH A PIECE IN WHICH PRESTIGIOUS COLUMNIST CARLOS CASTELLO BRANCO SPOKE APPROVINGLY OF THE "FIRST SIGNS OF PEACE" BETWEEN CHURCH AND STATE, AND WITH ANOTHER ARTICLE WHICH REVIEWED THE TROUBLED HISTORY OF CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS IN THE LATER YEARS OF THE REVOLUTION. A CONGEN RIO OFFICER WAS TOLD BY SALES' PRESS SECRETARY (SPEAKING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS) THAT SALES WAS "VERY PLEASED" WITH THE PRESS COVERAGE, CONSIDERED THE QUOTES ACCURATE AND THE FRONT-PAGE TREATMENT APPROPRIATE, AND SAID HE HAD GIVEN GEISEL "GOOD INFORMATION" DURING THE MEETING. THE PRESS SECRETARY CLARIFIED THAT THE CARDINAL'S REMARK ON "NO MORE PRISONERS" APPLIED TO THE RIO CHURCH AREA AND WAS NOT INTENDED TO COVER THE NON-CHURCH SECTOR OR THE CHURCH IN OTHER AREAS, SUCH AS SAO PAULO.

2. MUCH WAS ALSO MADE OF ASPECTS OF THE ANNUAL MASS FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL HELD SHORTLY THEREAFTER IN SAO PAULO. CARDINAL EVARISTO ARNS (WHO AFFILIATED) AND II ARMY COMMANDER GENERAL D'AVILA MELLO MET AT THE ALTAR AFTERWARDS, AND THE PHOTOGRAPH OF THE TWO TOGETHER ALSO MADE THE FRONT PAGES AND SPARKED CONSIDERABLE COMMENT. DURING THE OCCASION, D'AVILA DECLARED THAT "THE ARMED FORCES AND THE CHURCH CANNOT BE SEPARATED AT A TIME WHEN WE ARE COMMEMORATING THIS MASS, AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR RELIGIOUS CALENDAR." ARNS WAS QUOTED AS CALLING FOR ALL TO MEET THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND DECLARING THAT "ALL LIVES ARE PRECIOUS." THE JORNAL DO BRASIL THEN RAN AN EDITORIAL CITING THESE TWO OCCASIONS AND ASSERTING THAT "THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ATMOSPHERE OF MUTUAL CONFIDENCE, UNDERSTANDING, AND RESPECT HAS BEEN CONFIRMED." A CASTELLO BRANCO COLUMN BEGAN WITH A REFERENCE TO THE PHOTOGRAPH AND SAID IT "TRANSLATES AND SYMBOLIZES THE CHANGE OF ATTITUDE OF THE GOVERNMENT IN RELATION TO THE CHURCH." CASTELLO ADDED
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BRASIL 06907 01 OF 04 102027Z

THAT "OF COURSE NOT EVERYTHING HAS BEEN DONE."

3. THE CURRENT WAVE OF COMMENT CRESTED WITH THE COMMENTS ARNS MADE TO THE PRESS LATER IN THE MONTH FOLLOWING A MEETING OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF BRAZILIAN BISHOPS (CNBB), SPEAKING OF A PREVIOUSLY UNANNOUNCED MEETING HE HAD HAD WITH GEISEL CONFIDANT GOLBERY AUGUST 7, ARNS WAS QUOTED AS SAYING INTER ALIA "THE DIALOGUE HAS BEGUN BETWEEN THE CHURCH AND THE GOVERNMENT. THE CHURCH HAS TO TALK WITH ALL WHO WISH TO TALK, IT NEVER FLED FROM

DIALOGUE, BUT NOW IT IS BEING HEARD . . . WE (I.E. HE AND GOLBERY) TALKED ABOUT PRISONERS, PRESS CENSORSHIP, INCOME DISTRIBUTION, AND MATTERS RELATED TO THE PROBLEM OF COLONISTS' LANDS IN AMAZONIA AND MATO GROSSO. HE HEARD ME ATTENTIVELY AND I WENT SO FAR AS TO SAY TO HIM 'YOU HAVE NOT BEEN CHANGED BY THE JOB YOU HOLD TODAY' . . . HE WANTED TO KNOW WHAT WE WERE DEFENDING. I TOLD HIM I WAS DEFENDING THE POLITICAL PRISONERS (WHO HAVE) DISAPPEARED. THERE ARE MORE THAN 20 POLITICAL PRISONERS (WHO HAVE) DISAPPEARED FROM SAO PAULO AND FROM RIO AND I AM WORRIED. THE MINISTER TOOK NOTE OF MY REQUEST AND PROMISED THAT HE WILL HELP TO FIND THEM. . . THE DIALOGUE HAS BEGUN, IS WHAT WE CAN ANTICIPATE. HE AGREES WITH US WHEN WE SPEAK ABOUT CENSORSHIP, AND THAT CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM IS NECESSARY FOR EVERY GOVERNMENT."

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRASIL 06907 02 OF 04 102141Z

72

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 EB-11 SWF-02 AGR-20 /175 W

----- 093049

R 102000Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5511

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 4 BRASILIA 6907

4. CONGEN SAO PAULO LATER TALKED WITH ARNS. THEIR REPORT FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: A. CNBB MEETING. HAVING RETURNED FROM CNBB MEETING IN RIO LATE AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 3, CARDINAL ARNS HONORED OUR LONGSTANDING REQUEST FOR AN INTERVIEW BY RECEIVING CONGEN AND POLOFF AT HIS RESIDENCE MORNING SEP. 4 AND GREETED US IN A MOST FRIENDLY FASHION TALKING INFORMALLY FOR AN HOUR. WE OPENED BY NOTING THE OPTIMISTIC STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS WHICH SOME BISHOPS, INCLUDING HIMSELF, REPORTEDLY HAD MADE WITH RESPECT TO A NEW "DETENTE" BETWEEN CHURCH AND STATE IN BRAZIL. ARNS

RESPONDED BY DENYING THAT CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS HAD EVEN BEEN A TOPIC OF DISCUSSION DURING THE BISHOPS' CONFERENCE, WHICH ACTUALLY HAD BEEN CALLED TO DEFINE A POSITION ON OTHER QUESTIONS OF PASTORAL CONCERN. GIVEN THE PRESS INTEREST IN CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS, IT WAS UNDERSTANDABLE THAT THE REPORTERS HAD EMPHASIZED THE BISHOP'S EXTRA-CONFERENCE STATEMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT, BUT ARNS NOTED THAT SOME OF THESE STATEMENTS HAD BEEN DISTORTED BY THE PRESS AS WELL AS CENSORED BY THE AUTHORITIES.

B. GOLBERY-ARNS MEETING OF AUGUST 7 AND SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS. HAVING RECEIVED REPORTS IN JUNE AND JULY CONCERNING THE "DISAPPEARANCE" OF TWENTY-FOUR INDIVIDUALS IN SAO PAULO AND OTHER PARTS OF BRAZIL UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES CLEARLY SUGGESTING THAT THESE "SEIZURES" HAD BEEN PERPETRATED BY MILITARY OR POLICE AUTHORITIES, ARNS IN LATE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BRASIL 06907 02 OF 04 102141Z

JULY REQUESTED THAT GENERAL GOLBERY RECEIVE HIM IN THE COMPANY OF THE VICTIMS' NEXT OF KIN TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE. GOLBERY IMMEDIATELY ACCEPTED ARNS' REQUEST AND THE MEETING TOOK PLACE IN BRASILIA ON AUGUST 7. ARNS FIRST MET ALONE WITH GOLBERY FOR TWO HOURS AND THE TWO LATER SPENT ANOTHER TWO AND A HALF HOURS LISTENING TO THE ACCOUNTS OF EACH OF THE FAMILIES OF MISSING PERSONS. (ACCORDING TO ARNS, A FEW OF THE TWENTY-FOUR COULD BE DESCRIBED AS "DANGEROUS.") GOLBERY REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED INCREDULITY, APPEARED CONFUSED AND PRACTICALLY WEPT AT SOME OF THE STORIES HE HEARD. AFTERWARDS, GOLBERY ASKED ARNS TO GIVE HIM UNTIL AUGUST 27 TO INVESTIGATE THE CASES. WHEN THE PROMISED PERIOD HAD PASSED WITHOUT ANY FURTHER RESPONSE FROM GOLBERY CONCERNING THOSE WHO HAD DISAPPEARED, ARNS CALLED A PRESS CONFERENCE ON AUGUST 28 TO REPORT HIS CONVERSATION WITH GOLBERY AND TO DENOUNCE THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUING FAILURE TO ACCOUNT FOR THE MISSING INDIVIDUALS. SUBSEQUENTLY, ARNS RECEIVED WORD FROM GOLBERY THAT THE GENERAL WAS DELIGHTED WITH ARNS' PRESS CONFERENCE.

C. GOLBERY-ARNS RELATIONSHIP. JUST AS ARNS HAS STATED TO THE PRESS, ARNS EXPRESSED TO US HIS CONTINUING ESTEEM FOR GOLBERY. DURING THE PRIVATE PORTION OF HIS AUGUST 7 MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT'S CHIEF OF CIVIL HOUSEHOLD THEY REVIEWED ALL OF THE MATTERS THAT THEY HAD DISCUSSED ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, SUCH AS CENSORSHIP, "PARALLEL POLICE," ILLEGAL ARRESTS, ETC. GOLBERY CONTINUED TO BE OPPOSED TO CENSORSHIP. HE WAS STILL THE SAME CONCERNED INDIVIDUAL HE HAD BEEN PRIOR TO GEISEL'S INAUGURATION.

D. CONTINUING ILLEGAL ARRESTS. AT THE AUGUST 7 MEETING, GOLBERY TOLD ARNS THAT WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS HAD BEEN ISSUED BY PRESIDENT GEISEL TO MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN SAO PAULO THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO FURTHER ILLEGAL "SEIZURES," AND THAT ALL ARRESTS SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN

STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH BRAZILIAN LAW. JUDGES WOULD BE NOTIFIED OF ALL ARRESTS WITHIN 24 HOURS, AND THE NEXT OF KIN WOULD ALSO BE ADVISED. DISPOSITION OF THE PRISONER WOULD BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF DULY CONSTITUTED JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES. DESPITE THESE INSTRUCTIONS, ARNS EMPHASIZED, ILLEGAL ARRESTS WERE CONTINUING IN SAO PAULO AND INDEED HAD BEGUN AGAIN IN RIO AFTER A PROLONGED RESPITE. IN FACT, THREE INDIVIDUALS WITH SAO PAULO CONNECTIONS, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BRASIL 06907 02 OF 04 102141Z

AT LEAST ONE OF WHOM AS ASSOCIATED WITH THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY IN RIO, WERE "KIDNAPPED" IN RIO DURING THE RECENT BISHOPS' CONFERENCE THERE, AND THEIR RELATIVES CAME TO SEE HIM BECAUSE THEY LEARNED THROUGH THE NEWSPAPERS THAT HE WAS IN THE CITY. ALTHOUGH LACKING JURISDICTION, HE HAD DONE WHAT HE COULD FOR THEM THROUGH THE RIO ARCHDIOCESE, EVEN OBTAINING A SIGNED STATEMENT FROM A HUSBAND TO A WIFE THAT HE WAS ALIVE AND WELL, ALTHOUGH HIS WHEREABOUTS WERE NOT IDENTIFIED. AS THE ARCHDIOCESAN MESSENGER HAD GONE AND RETURNED FROM A MILITARY INSTALLATION IN A QUARTER OF AN HOUR BEARING THE MESSAGE, ARNS THOUGHT IT WAS A REASONABLE INFERENCE THAT THE HUSBAND WAS BEING HELD THERE. WHAT PARTICULARLY INCENSED ARNS WAS THE TREATMENT METED OUT TO THE WIFE OF A CARDIOLOGIST WHO HAD SOUGHT ARNS OUT. SHE INFORMED ARNS THAT SHE WAS AFRAID FOR HER OWN SAFETY BECAUSE WHEN SHE HAD INQUIRED AT LOCAL ARMY HEADQUARTERS IN RIO ABOUT HER HUSBAND'S WHEREABOUTS, SHE HAD BEEN THREATENED WITH HER OWN ARREST IF SHE PURSUED THE MATTER. ARNS ATTEMPTED TO CALM HER BY EXPRESSING GRAVE DOUBTS THAT THE MILITARY WOULD ACT IN SUCH AN ARBITRARY FASHION, ONLY TO DISCOVER SUBSEQUENTLY FROM THE MISSING MAN'S BROTHER-IN-LAW THAT THE WIFE HAD INDEED BEEN ARRESTED LATER THAT VERY EVENING.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRASIL 06907 03 OF 04 102136Z

72

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 EB-11 SWF-02 AGR-20 /175 W

----- 093026

R 102000Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5512

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 4 BRASILIA 06907

E. ARNS' RELATIONS WITH SECOND ARMY COMMANDER, GENERAL D'AVILA MELLO. ARNS DESCRIBED HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH D'AVILA AS ONE OF FRIENDSHIP, BUT EXPRESSED GRAVE MISGIVINGS ABOUT D'AVILA'S CONTINUING ACCEPTANCE OF THE SECRET SEIZURE OF PLITICAL SUSPECTS BY MILITARY AUTHORITIES AS A LEGITIMATE SECURITY PROCEDURE. WHEN ARNS HAD INFORMED GOLBERY THAT THIS WAS D'AVILA'S COMMVNTINUING APPROACH, GOLBERY EXPRESSED INCREDULTY. THE ONE POINT ON WHICH D'AVILA HAD DEMONSTRATED THAT HE HAD TAKEN POSITIVE ACTION WAS THE REMOVAL OF POLICE INSPECTOR FLEURY FROM INTERROGATION OF POLITICAL PRISONERS. D'AVILA HAD TOLD THE CARDINAL THAT FLEURY HAD BEEN REMOVED EFFECTIVE JULY 3 AND WHEN ARNS LATER CHECKED THROUGH HIS SOURCES, INCLUDING RELEASED DETAINEES, HE FOUND THAT INDEED THEY HAD NOT ENCOUNTERED FLEURY, ALTHOUGH THE LATTER CONTINUED ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

F. ARMED FORCES' MASS. EARLY LAST MONTH WHEN D'AVILA CAME TO ARNS TO ASK HIM TO OFFICIATE AT A MASS FOR THE ARMED FORCES, ARNS INITIALLY HESITATED, POINTING OUT THAT MILITARY CAPLAINS WERE ASSIGNED TO PERFORM THIS FUNCTION. HOWEVER, D'AVILA INSISTED AND ARNS FINALLY AGREED ON THE CONDITION THAT IT WOULD BE A PURELY RELIGIOUS SERVICE.

AS THE BIBLICAL PASSAGES SELECTED FOR THAT DAY'S READING BY THE MILITARY CHAPLAIN HAD TO DO WITH SLAVERY AND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BRASIL 06907 03 OF 04 102136Z

PEACE, ARNS WAS ABLE TO ELABORATE ON THESE THEMES DURING THE MASS. AFTER THE MASS, D'AVILA THANKED ARNS AND SAID HE WAS PLEASED AT THE WAY IT HAD TURNED OUT. TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION, ARNS TOOK D'AVILA ASIDE ON THE ALTAR AND TOLD HIM THAT HE HAD JUST HEARD THAT MILITARY AUTHORITIES HAD OBTAINED FROM CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY IN SAO PAULO (PUC) THE RECORDS ON 36 PERSONS WHO AT ONE TIME HAD BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH ACAO POPULAR. FIVE OF THESE, ARNS TOLD D'AVILA, HAD ALREADY BEEN ARRESTED BY THE MILITARY, (THROUGH A CHANGE IN PERSONNEL AT PUC, ARNS' EARLIER ORDER HAD NOT BEEN COMPLIED WITH THAT

(1) NO RECORDS SHOULD BE TURNED OVER WITHOUT A SIGNED REQUEST FROM AN AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL, (2) THE CARDINAL SHOULD BE IMMEDIATELY INFORMED AND, (3) THE INDIVIDUAL WHOSE RECORDS WERE REQUESTED SHOULD BE NOTIFIED. AS A RESULT, ARNS' REPUTATION AT PUC HAD BEEN SERIOUSLY AFFECTED BECAUSE IT WAS INITIALLY THOUGHT THERE THAT HE WAS CONDONING THE ARRESTS.) D'AVILA ATTEMPTED TO DISOWN RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ARRESTS ALLEGING THAT THIS WAS NOT A MILITARY OPERATION. HOWEVER, ARNS EMPHATICALLY REPLIED THAT HE HAD CONFIRMED INFORMATION TO THE CONTRARY. ARNS WAS PLEASED TO NOTE, HE TOLD US, THAT ALL FIVE HAVE SINCE BEEN RELEASED; AND NONE OF THE OTHERS WHOSE RECORDS HAD BEEN REQUESTED HAD BEEN DETAINED, PRESUMABLY AS A RESULT OF THIS CONVERSATION BEFORE THE ALTER.

G. ACAO POPULAR (AP). IN DISCUSSING THIS PARTICULAR INCIDENT, ARNS GAVE US HIS VIEWS ABOUT AP. HE SAID THAT PRIOR TO 1967, AP WAS A LEGITIMATE OPTION FOR CONCERNED CATHOLIC STUDENTS WHO DID NOT WANT TO GO INTO THE COMMUNIST PARTY. HOWEVER, WHEN IT BECAME APPARENT IN 1967 THAT THE ORGANIZATION HAD BEEN INFILTRATED TO THE POINT OF DOMINATION BY THE MARXISTS, THE BISHOPS DROPPED THEIR SUPPORT FOR AP. NONE OF THE 36 PERSONS AT PUC HAD BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH AP AT LEAST SINCE THAT DATE, ARNS ASSERTED.

H. TORTURE, ASKED IF HE HAD EVIDENCE OF CONTINUING TORTURE, ARNS REPLIED THAT HE HAD BEEN RELIABLY INFORMED THAT TORTURE EQUIPMENT IN DETENTION AREAS WAS BEING CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BRASIL 06907 03 OF 04 102136Z

DESTROYED, AND THAT PHYSICAL TORTURE APPEARED TO BE GIVING WAY TO NEW, MORE SCIENTIFIC PSYCHOLOGICAL TECHNIQUES. HE MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY THE INTERROGATION OF PRISONERS BY HOODED INDIVIDUALS WHO ALTERNATED BETWEEN THREATENING AND COMPASSIONATE APPROACHES WHILE RECORDED SCREAMS WERE SIMULATED ON TAPE RECORDERS IN THE BACKGROUND.

I.

GEISEL'S ADDRESS TO THE ARENA LEADERS. ARNS SAID THAT CLOSE ANALYSIS OF THE LANGUAGE USED BY GEISEL IN HIS AUGUST 29 ADDRESS TO ARENA PARTY LEADERS LED HIM TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE PART OF THE SPEECH WHICH REFERRED TO GROUPS HOISTING THE BANNER OF NOBLE IDEALS AND ETERNAL VALUES" WHICH WAS GIVING AID AND COMFORT TO SUBVERSIVES WAS AIMED PRINCIPALLY AT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH (AND PROBABLY OTHER RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS WHICH ALSO HAD SENT PETITIONS TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS). ARNS EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THIS PART

OF THE SPEECH BECAUSE IT WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT THE CHURCH HAD BEEN PUBLICLY THREATENED BY A PRESIDENT OF BRAZIL, TO HIS RECOLLECTION.

J. NO AGREEMENT. ARNS DISMISSED AS NONSENSE THE RUMOR THAT SOME FORMAL AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED BETWEEN THE CHURCH AND THE GOVERNMENT. SUCH AN AGREEMENT, HE SAID, WOULD NOT BE CONSISTENT WITH THE DYNAMIC SITUATION IN WHICH EITHER THE STATE OR THE CHURCH FOUND ITSELF.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRASIL 06907 04 OF 04 102113Z

72

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 EB-11 SWF-02 AGR-20 /175 W

----- 092703

R 102000Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5513

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 4 OF 4 BRASILIA 6907

K. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS. ARNS EXPRESSED GREAT CONCERN ABOUT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN SAO PAULO WHICH HE SAID HAD DETERIORATED SUBSTANTIALLY AND WERE HAVING A PARTICULARLY SERIOUS IMPACT ON THE POOR. HE SAID THAT THE RISE IN THE COST OF LIVING FOR THE BASIC FOOD COMMODITIES EATEN BY THE POOR WAS MUCH HIGHER THAN THE INCREASE OF THE COST OF LIVING FOR THE POPULATION AS A WHOLE. THEREFORE, THE STATISTICS DO NOT ACCURATELY REVEAL THE TRUE STATE OF MISERY AMONG THE POOR. FIFTY PERCENT OF THE BRAZILIAN POPULATION IS NOT BEING PROPERLY FED BECAUSE IT CANNOT AFFORD A PROPER DIET. THIS MAY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN TRUE IN BRAZILIAN HISTORY, BUT IT WAS PARTICULARLY IRONIC THAT BRAZIL NOW HAD THE CAPACITY TO FEED ALL OF ITS CITIZENS WELL AND YET THIS SITUATION PERSISTED AND APPEARED TO BE GETTING WORSE. HE ALSO TOOK NOTE OF THE FACT THAT THE MENINGITIS EPIDEMIC HAD ALMOST ENTIRELY AFFECTED LOWER

INCOME GROUPS AND ATTRIBUTED THIS TO THEIR MISERABLE LIVING CONDITIONS AND LACK OF PROPER DIET.

1. CONCLUSION. ARNS SAID HE WAS NEITHER OPTIMISTIC NOR PESSIMISTIC BUT CONTINUED TO FACE THE FUTURE WITH EXPECTANCY. THERE WERE A FEW SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT BUT ALSO SOME SIGNS OF A WORSENING SITUATION AS WELL.

5. EMBASSY COMMENT: ARNS' CONCERNS NOTWITHSTANDING, THERE HAS BEEN PERCEPTIBLE IMPROVEMENT IN THE STATE OF CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BRASIL 06907 04 OF 04 102113Z

CHURCH-GOVERNMENT RELATIONS IN THE GEISEL ERA, AS HAS BEEN WIDELY ASSERTED AND ACKNOWLEDGED HERE. VARIOUS COMMENTATORS HAVE RECALLED THE IMPRISONMENT OF DOZENS OF PRIESTS IN THE 1968-71 PERIOD, AND THE MUTUAL ANTIPATHY THAT MARKED RELATIONS IN THE LATTER PART OF THE MEDICI ADMINISTRATION. GEISEL'S ATTENDANCE OF THE OPENING OF THE PAPEL NUNCIATE, HIS WARM RECEPTION OF CARDINAL ROSSI, THE GRANTING OF THE AWARD TO DOM AVELAR (REFTELS), AS WELL AS THE MEETINGS BETWEEN CHURCH AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS AND THE ABOVE-MENTIONED EVENTS, STAND IN SHARP CONTRAST TO THAT UNHAPPY PAST. IT IS NEVERTHELESS TRUE THAT AS LONG AS CHURCH LEADERS, AND PARTICULARLY THE ACTIVIST, LEFT-OF-CENTER (IN THE CHURCH) ARNS, REMAIN CONVINCED THAT ABUSES OF HUMAN RIGHTS HAVE NOT BEEN ENDED, THEY WILL RETAIN THEIR CRITICAL POSTURE. IT IS ALSO TRUE THAT AS LONG AS THE CHURCH RETAINS THAT POSTURE, ELEMENTS OF THE REVOLUTION WILL CONTINUE TO VIEW THE CHURCH WITH SUSPICION AND EVEN HOSTILITY. CRIMMINS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, DISPUTES, HUMAN RIGHTS, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS, MEETINGS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, POLITICAL SITUATION, PROGRESS REPORTS, MEETING REPORTS , PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BRASIL06907
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X4
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740252-0102
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740961/aaaabzkq.tel
Line Count: 473
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 9
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. BRASILIA A-116
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 SEP 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <03 MAR 2003 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS: REPORTS OF IMPROVEMENT SUPPORTED BY SALES, DISPUTED BY ARNS
TAGS: PINT, BR, (GOLBERRY), (GEISEL, ERNESTO), (CARDINAL SALES), (CARDINAL ARNS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005